

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISH MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, November 26, 2019**

**Richardson & Robbins Building Auditorium**

**89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware**

**Phone 302-739-9912, FAX 302-739-6157**

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

1. Edward A. Montague, Chair
2. Garrett Grier, Jr., Vice Chair
3. Raymond F. Burris
4. Neal Dukes
5. Nathan Hudson
6. Joe C. Johnson
7. Steven Kendus
8. Dale R. Scuse (Absent)
9. F. Thomas Unruh

### **DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE**

1. Rob Hossler
2. David Saveikis
3. Joe Rogerson
4. Henrietta Bellman
5. Chief Drew Aydelotte

### **PUBLIC**

5 Visitors

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Montague at 7:00 pm.

#### **Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman).**

A motion was made by Councilman Kendus, seconded by Councilman Burris and the Council voted unanimously to approve the October 29, 2019 meeting minutes as written.

#### **Agenda Item 2. Protocol for Documenting Motions in Meeting Minutes (David Saveikis).**

The Council discussed motion procedures and made minor revisions to how motions would be made and acted upon to more readily document motions in meeting minutes. Council members will more definitively make and second motions, and Council members will indicate their votes on motions through a show of hands.

#### **Agenda Item 3. 2019-2020 Deer Harvest Update (Joe Rogerson).**

Joe Rogerson, Program Manager, provided an update on this year's deer harvest to date. The 2019-2020 deer harvest is 21% higher than last year at this time, but it is too early to determine if the harvest will continue at this pace as there are still 2.5 months left in the 2019-2020 deer hunting season.

There have been 12,541 deer harvested to date this hunting season, which is 2,252 more deer than the 10,289 harvested at the same point during last year's season that closed as Delaware's second highest harvest of all time. When looking at harvest by weapon type, most of this increase in deer harvest is through use of archery

equipment, consisting of both compound and crossbows, as well as use of recently allowed straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles. Mr. Rogerson also advised the Council of the Division's efforts to collect Chronic Wasting Disease samples and biological data from female deer that were harvested during the November shotgun season, including the age of each deer and its weight. Similar biological data were collected by Division staff from male deer in 2018.

#### **Agenda Item 4. Piping Plovers in Delaware – State Population Increase and Regional Implications (Henrietta Bellman).**

Henrietta Bellman, Coastal Avian Biologist, gave a presentation on the federally-listed threatened Piping Plover in Delaware. In accordance with the Atlantic Coast Piping Plover Recovery Plan (USFWS, revised 2016), the Division conducts monitoring to ensure the long-term viability of the Atlantic Coast population of piping plovers.

For the second year in a row, Delaware established its all-time high number of nesting piping plover pairs in 2019, with 19 pairs producing 52 fledglings, a record number since the species was listed in 1986. In 2018, Delaware had 16 nesting pairs producing 36 fledglings. Much of the increase in nesting pairs has occurred at the recently restored beach habitat at the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (PHNWR).

Ms. Bellman reported that Delaware has recorded color-banded plovers nesting at PHNWR that were marked and had nested in New Jersey, indicating movement between states. These trends observed in Delaware demonstrate the potential benefit of habitat creation for nesting piping plovers at the regional and population level.

**Agenda Item 5. Director's Update (David Saveikis).**

Director Saveikis informed the Council that the Department is currently considering legislation for possible introduction in the upcoming General Assembly session that begins in January, and that he would keep the Council informed of any such or other relevant legislation.

**AGENDA FOR THE 1/28/2020 ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Council asked the Division of Fish & Wildlife to provide the agenda for the next meeting, with the Division subsequently developing the following agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes from November 26, 2019 Council Meeting (Chairman).
2. Protocol for Documenting Council Votes (David E. Saveikis).
3. Tundra Swan Population and Harvest Update (Justyn Foth).
4. 2019/2020 Deer Season Hunter Compliance Overview (Captain Brian Pollock).
5. Director's Update (David E. Saveikis).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Kendus, seconded by Councilman Burris and unanimously approved by the Council to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Sincerely,



Dana Patone  
Recording Secretary